

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). Please retain claims 5-12 in their present form in accordance with the following:

1-4. (cancelled)

✓ 5. (previously presented) A method for visual display unit-based definition and parameterization of a software interface of a software component of an industrial automation system, the software interface having at least one interface parameter that has at least one editable attribute, the method comprising:

- providing a display window which can be divided vertically or horizontally;
- displaying in a first partial window of the display window a hierarchical structure of the at least one interface parameter of the software component of the industrial automation system;
- selecting one interface parameter using a movable cursor; and
- displaying in a second partial window of the display window a detail display of the selected interface parameter, the detail display including a display of at least one editable attribute of the selected interface parameter and allowing the editable attribute to be defined and parameterized.

6. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, further comprising:

- for each editable attribute of the at least one editable attribute, providing a name portion and a data portion, the name portion being used to identify the editable attribute, the data portion being scrollable horizontally if a graphical representation of the data portion requires more space than a space offered by the display window, the graphical representation of the name portion, being stationary.

7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:

arranging the name portion and the data portion in vertical columns, the vertical columns being arranged side by side.

8. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:  
arranging the name portion and the data portion in horizontal rows, the horizontal rows being arranged one below another.

D<sup>1</sup>  
9. (previously presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising:  
dividing the data portion into columns or rows.

10. (previously presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein a sequence of the vertical columns is freely selected and stored by a user.

11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein a sequence of the horizontal rows is freely selected and stored by a user.

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12. (previously presented) A method for visual display unit-based definition and parameterization of a software interface of a software component of an industrial automation system, the software interface having at least one interface parameter that has at least one editable attribute, the method comprising:

providing a display window which can be divided vertically or horizontally;

D<sup>2</sup>  
displaying in a first partial window of the display window a hierarchical structure of the at least one interface parameter of the software component of the industrial automation system, wherein the at least one interface parameter determines use of a function block of the software interface;

selecting one interface parameter using a movable cursor; and

displaying in a second partial window of the display window a detail display of the selected interface parameter, the detail display including a display of at least one editable attribute of the selected interface parameter and allowing the editable attribute to be defined and parameterized.

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